

Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission
Community Policing Program
Annual Report

Section I

Appendix C

Agency: Hampstead Police Department

Region #: 1

Date Report Submitted: 1/22/2020

Submitted By: Name: Stacey Gaegler

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Number of sworn members: 8

Non-sworn members: 2

Jurisdictional Demographics: Population: 6387

Square miles serviced by the agency: 3.19

White: 92% Black: 2% Hispanic: 2% Asian: 3%

Native American: 0.6% Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 0.2% More than one race: 1%

Section II

Instructions: Provide a detailed description of your agency's Community Policing Initiative by responding to the following **key points**. These key points address the Guiding Principles of Community Policing, as well as the Six Pillars identified in the Task Force on 21st Century Policing Report (see Guidelines for Reporting for explanation). Examples of specific programs, initiatives, and partnerships with community groups should be discussed along with any statistics or other relevant information. See *Appendix D: Examples of Best Practices in Community Policing* for your convenience and consideration.

Key Points:

- How community policing is integrated throughout your agency and how your agency incorporates community policing into its daily operation.
- How top management emphasizes or supports community policing within the agency.
- Training your agency has received in community policing and future plans to provide additional or specialized training to agency members to improve interaction with community members or problem solving efforts.
- How crime problems or community issues are identified and the method of communicating any trends with communities the agency services.
- How your agency partners with all segments of the community to prevent crime and address identified community problems. Segments of the community should include residential and business communities, schools, youth, minority groups, hospitals, senior population, faith based organizations, etc.
- How your agency measures the effectiveness of its community policing program.

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1) *How is community policing integrated throughout your agency and how does your agency incorporate community policing into its daily operations?*

Response: 1. Our agency is small; we do not have a specialized unit for Community Policing. All of our officers participate in community policing on a daily basis. Our officers deal with citizens, businesses, schools and community groups directly while on routine patrol through daily visits and walk-about of our schools and local businesses; and, business checks, speaking to owners about issues they may have.

2) *How does top management emphasize or support community policing within your agency?*

Response: 2. Our command staff supports the officers with community policing, by participating in annual programs hosted by the police department, examples, Shop with a Cop and National Night Out. The command staff also makes visits to schools, local businesses, Homeowner Association meetings and monthly Council Meetings. At these meetings, the Chief has direct contact and dialogue with the citizens of the Town. 14 meetings were attended.

3) *Describe training your agency has received in community policing and future plans to provide additional or specialized training to agency members to improve interaction with community members or problem solving efforts.*

Response: 3. Officers receive Community Policing Training modules while in the Police Academy. These modules explain how to have conversations with citizens about their concerns, as well as how to speak with citizens who are victims of a crime. Depending on why officers are called, depends on how to handle each interaction with citizens. Officers have also received training with dealing with people who have autism, mental health issues and opioid addictions. Several of our officers are certified CIT officers, as well as in Residential and Commercial Prevention. These officers assist the businesses and local citizens with security surveys. HPD has an officer who specializes in Child Safety seats. This officer helps the community properly install child safety seats in their vehicles. HPD did host Coffee with Cop at the Residences of Hampstead, which allowed our elderly population whom many do not drive have access and positive interactions with law enforcement officers. Future include programs at the library where officers read to children. Officers will also be assigned age groups at the school, starting with the kindergarten class. That officer will continue with that class through middle school. The Hampstead Police Department does not currently have a high school in its jurisdiction. HPD assisted 8 separate events involving our schools. HPD assisted with installing 3 child safety seats during the year of 2019. HPD officers were trained in various areas to included a CPR instructor, we are in the process of having all Town employees trained in CPR, as well as some local business employees.

4) *Describe how crime problems or community issues are identified and addressed, and the method of communicating any trends with communities the agency services.*

Response: 4. There is a monthly Town Council meeting that is attended by the Chief. At this meeting, he explains what has occurred the month prior related to crime. Also, he explains the number of patrol checks, citations issued, arrests, training received and community relations. Any ongoing- issues may also be shared with allied agencies who are dealing with the same crimes. The Command staff has an open invitation to the community to mail or call the office

with any concerns they have; in reference to the police department, officers or the community. Again, the Command staff attends the Business Association meetings and the Home Owners Association meetings keeping the lines of communication open. The Hampstead Department also partners with the local high schools and colleges in providing the opportunity to participate in an internship program for those pursuing a career in Criminal Justice.

5) *Identify how your agency partners with all segments of the community to prevent crime and address identified community problems. Segments of the community should include residential and business communities, schools, youth, minority groups, hospitals, senior population, faith based organizations, etc.*

Response: National Night Out is Hampstead's largest event involving the community and crime prevention strategies. During this even, Hampstead Police Department has partnered with the local volunteer Fire Department, local businesses and community groups. This event enables the local community to see officers on a different level; their compassion and human side that shows the officers share in the community's concerns, how they would address their concerns and allows open dialogue between officers and the citizens they serve. The Shop with a Cop program benefits our local community members having financial issues during the holidays. Officers spend time with the children and they see we are not just there for the bad events. The children open up to the officers about current issues they are facing at home and at school. Our officers keep these connections with the children and their families. Throughout the year officers meet with community groups from the local boy and girl scouts, the elderly population and the schools. These meetings help the children learn about the officers daily jobs performed within the community, what to do in emergency situations and how to keep themselves safe everyday while at school and on the internet or social media. HPD officers were invited to 2 scout meetings in 2019 and spoke with students at 2 day care centers as well. Senior citizen events include safety talks about the internet and social media, fraud scams that they could become involved in through emails or phone calls and what info to report to police and what info not to provide over the phone or by email. HPD assisted with a community talk for Seniors which included current financial scams, hosted by Edward Jones Investments. Officers assist our schools with talking to students in health class about peer pressure, social media and the opioid crisis. Officers also assist the school administration with lock down drills, fire drills and any special events held at the schools. HPD officers also attended several Carroll County events involving the local communities to include: Safe Kids Day hosted by the City of Westminster, the 5th Annual Drug Overdose Vigil, and Western Regions Annual Maryland Memorial Service for Crime Victims both hosted by the States Attorney's Office. Catherine's Cause Annual Remembrance Ceremony to remember the victims of driving while intoxicated crashes. The American Legion hosted its Annual Memorial Service. HPD participated in Trunk or Treat hosted by the local bowling alley. Hampstead Police are also working with community's business associations to make sure employees have basic CPR knowledge.

6) *How does your agency measure the effectiveness of its community policing program?*

Response: 6. The Hampstead Police Department welcomes citizens' concerns, complaints or complements, and open dialogue during Town Hall, business and community meetings. Command staff reviews everything and personally.

NOTE: Email Agency report and document(s) to: pctc.mandates@maryland.gov